



**October 13, 2006**

**Statement by U.S. Attorney Robert Clark Corrente  
on the convictions of hospital executives in corruption probe**

As you know, about a year ago, former Senator John Celona pleaded guilty in federal court to defrauding the citizens of Rhode Island of his honest services. Mr. Celona admitted that, while he was a state senator, he accepted money and gifts from a number of Rhode Island businesses. In exchange, Mr. Celona admitted that he took action, or pressed others in the General Assembly to take action, on legislation that was of special interest to the companies that were paying him off. One of the businesses involved was **Roger Williams Medical Center**.

In January of this year, after it was indicted by the grand jury, RWMC signed a Deferred Prosecution Agreement. Among other things, Roger Williams agreed that the evidence supported the charges in the indictment against Mr. Urciuoli and Ms. Driscoll, and it accepted responsibility for those actions. That agreement led to a complete overhaul of the medical center's governance structure and corporate culture.

Today's verdict – against former medical center president Robert Urciuoli and VP Fran Driscoll -- was Round Three. The verdict sends a loud message – the people of RI are sick and tired of corruption and inside deals. We have a right to the honest services of our public officials, and we are simply not going to tolerate anyone – from a private individual to a large company – buying political influence. To those who would accept these inside deals as "typical RI", today's verdict says "not any more."

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There was a good deal of testimony about dealings other companies and other members of the General Assembly. In January I told you this was a big investigation that was extremely active. It's now even bigger and even more active. My office, along with the FBI and the Rhode Island State Police have devoted very extensive resources. Because of the nature of the investigation, and the rules about disclosure, I can't provide additional details about the other cases and the other targets. Suffice it to say that on Monday morning our work will continue, on all fronts, full speed ahead.

Finally and most especially, I want to thank and commend our prosecution team of Assistant U.S. Attorneys Luis M. Matos and Dulce Donovan, along with Kelly Anderson, and the investigators from the FBI and the Rhode Island State Police. These are hard cases to put together and hard cases to try, and I'm proud of the work they have done.

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